

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image heating apparatus comprising:  
a rotatable member contactable to a recording material  
carrying an image; and  
5 a limiting member for limiting movement of said  
rotatable member in a direction of a generating  
line of said rotatable member,  
wherein said limiting member is provided with a  
surface opposed to an outer peripheral surface at an  
10 end portion of said rotatable member.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further  
comprising a roller, contacted to said rotatable  
member, for forming, with said rotatable member, a nip  
15 for nipping the recording material.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein  
said rotatable member is flexible such that when the  
nip is formed, said rotatable member is the formed.  
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4. An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein in  
the peripheral surface of said rotatable member  
includes a surface portion which is in contact to the  
opposed surface of said limiting member and a surface  
25 portion which is out of contact from the opposed  
surface of said limiting member, when the nip is  
formed.

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5. An apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein  
said limiting member rotates with said rotatable  
member by friction at the surface portion which is in  
contact to the opposed surface of said limiting  
member.

6. An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein  
when said rotatable member and said roller are spaced  
from each other, a diameter of a surface opposed to  
the peripheral surface of said limiting member is  
larger than a diameter of the peripheral surface of  
said rotatable member.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein an  
outer diameter  $a$  of said rotatable member, and a  
difference  $\delta t$  between a diameter of a surface of said  
limiting member opposed to the peripheral surface of  
said limiting member and a diameter of the peripheral  
surface of said rotatable member, satisfy  
 $0.009$  is equal to or smaller than  $\delta t/a$  which is equal  
to or smaller than  $0.03$ .

8. An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein  $\delta t$   
is  $0.3 \text{ mm}$ - $1.0 \text{ mm}$ .

9. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein  
said limiting member further includes a second surface

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Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	

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15. An apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising a coil for generating a magnetic field for inducing eddy currents in said metal layer, wherein the image on the recording material is heated by heat from said metal layer in which heat is produced by the eddy currents.

16. An apparatus according to Claim 1 , further comprising a heater contacted to an inner peripheral surface of said rotatable member, wherein the image on the recording material is heated by heat from said heater through said rotatable member.

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